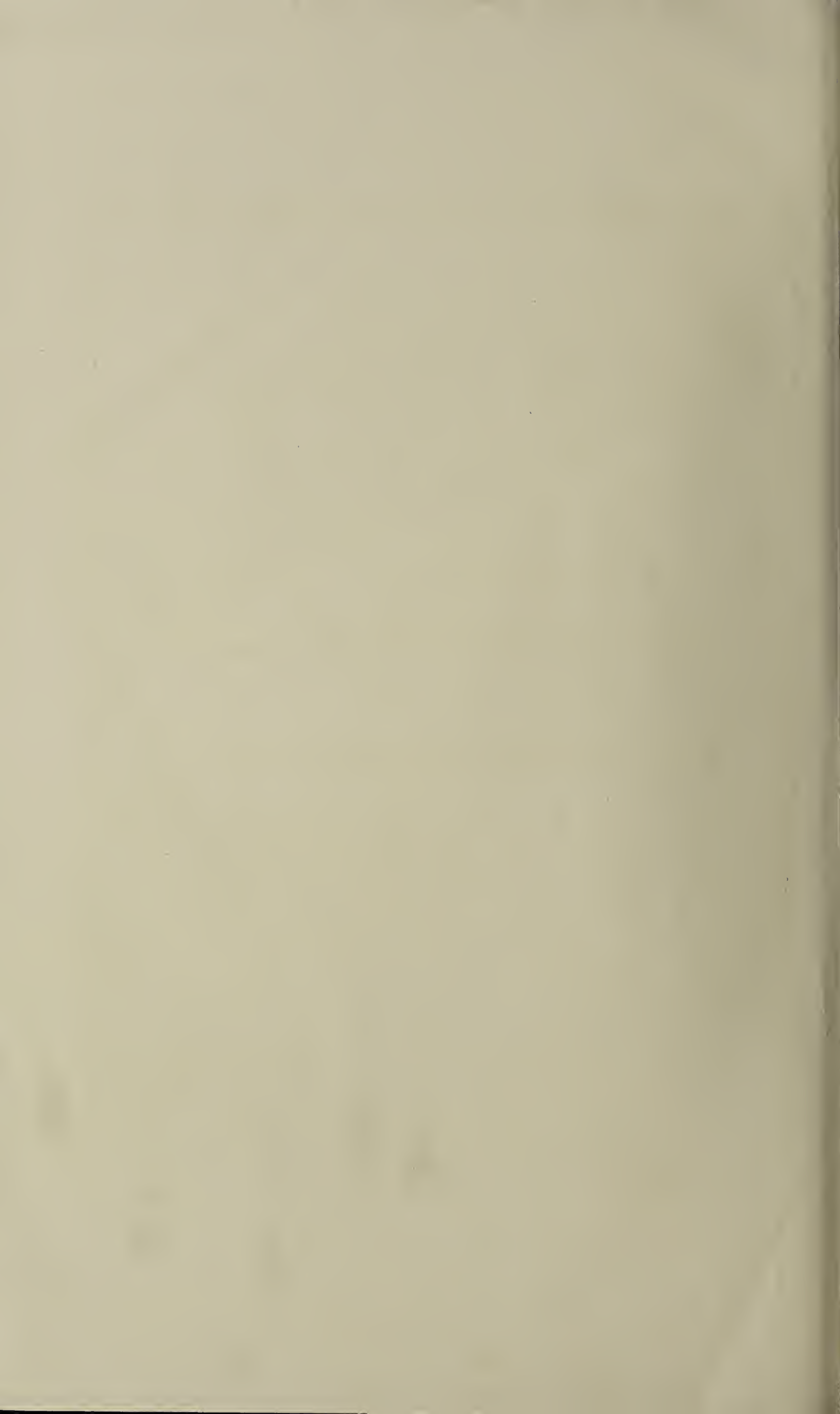


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MARCH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL
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ANNUAL REPORTS OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
AND THE
SANITARY INSPECTOR
FOR THE
YEAR 1947



THE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF MARCH.

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the Year 1947.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit to
you my Report for the year 1947.

A Report from the Sanitary
Inspector is also included.

I am,

Yours faithfully,

S. GOVERNOR,

Medical Officer of Health.

(i) Public Health Officers.

Medical Officer of Health - S. Governor, M.B., B. Ch.

Sanitary Inspector - R.C.L. Williams, B.E.M. (Mil)
M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

(ii) General Statistics.

Acres in Acres.	19,777
Population (Registrar-General's estimate for 1947)	12,920
Number of inhabited houses	3,757
Rateable Value.	£50,698
Amount represented by 1d rate.	£200

The estimated population shows a decrease of 30 on
the 1946 figure.

(iii) Vital Statistics.

Table I - Live Births.

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	137	119	256
Illegitimate	10	6	16
	<u>147</u>	<u>125</u>	<u>272</u>

The birth rate is 21 per 1,000 population and it
compares favourably with the birth rate for England
and Wales with is 20.5. It also shows an increase
on the previous year when the birth rate in the
district was 19.3 compared with 19.1 for England and
Wales.

Table II - Still-Births.

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	1	5	6
Illegitimate	-	-	-
	<u>1</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>

The rate for still-births is 0.46 per 1,000 compared
with 0.50 for England and Wales.

Table III - Infantile Mortality.

	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	8	2	10
Illegitimate	8	2	10

The infantile mortality rate is 36.7 per 1,000 live births compared with 41 for England and Wales. This is a considerable increase on the figure for 1946 when the rate for the district was 24 compared with 43 for England and Wales.

The causes of infantile death were as follows:-

Premature births	5
Congenital causes	2
Meningitis	1
Lobar pneumonia	2
	<u>10</u>

There were no deaths recorded during the year from infantile diarrhoea (under 2 years).

Table IV - Deaths in the Area and Causes.

	Male	Female	Total
Typhoid and Paratyphoid fevers	-	-	-
Cerebrospinal fever	1	-	1
Scarlet fever	-	-	-
Whooping cough	-	-	-
Diphtheria	-	-	-
T.B. of respiratory system	2	1	3
Other forms of T.B.	-	-	-
Syphilitic diseases	-	-	-
Influenza	-	-	-
Measles	-	-	-
Acute polio-myelitis and polio-encephalitis	-	-	-
Acute infectious encephalitis	-	-	-
Cancer	11	8	19
Diabetes	-	-	-
Intra-cranial vascular lesions	5	4	4
Heart disease	28	24	52
Other diseases of circulatory system	2	2	4
Bronchitis	1	-	1
Pneumonia	1	3	4
Other respiratory diseases	1	1	2
Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	1	-	1
Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	-	-	-
Appendicitis	-	-	-
Other digestive diseases	1	1	2
Nephritis	1	-	1
Puerperal and post abortive sepsis	-	-	-
Other maternal causes	-	-	-
Premature births	5	-	5
Congenital malformations, etc.	3	2	5
Suicide	3	2	5
Road traffic accidents	3	-	3
Other violent causes	1	1	2
All other causes	5	8	13
	<u>75</u>	<u>57</u>	<u>132</u>

The death rate in March this year is 10.2 per 1,000 population compared with 12 for England and Wales. Last year's figures were 8.8 and 11.5 for England and Wales.

The following table gives the percentages of deaths in the principal age groups.

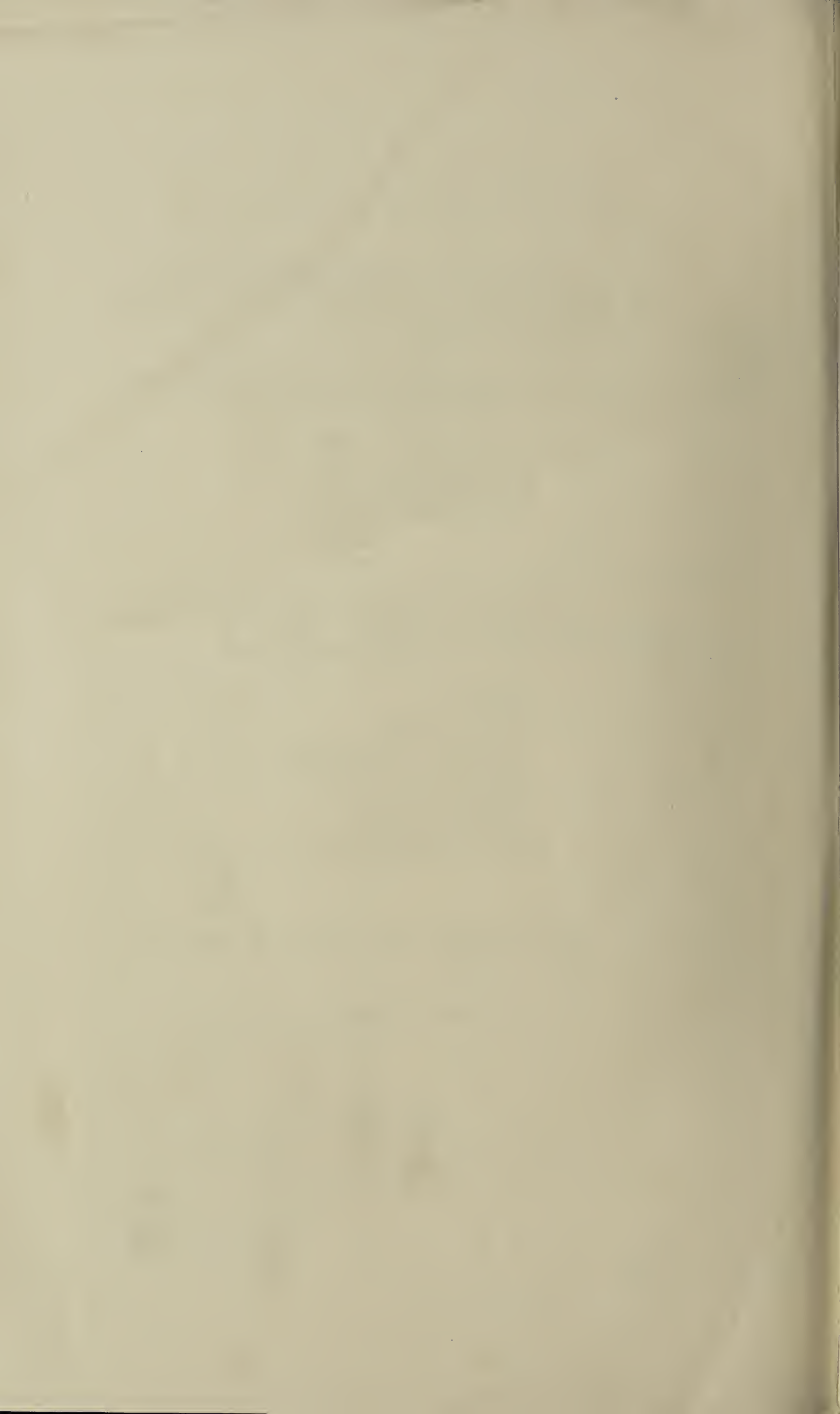
Under 1 year	7.58
1 - 5 years	1.51
6 - 15 years	.76
16 - 65 years	28.79
66 and over	61.36
	<hr/> 100.00 <hr/>

(iv) Prevalence and Control of Infectious Diseases.

Infectious Diseases Notified:

Erysipelas	11
Measles	289
Scarlet Fever	2
Whooping Cough	71
Anterior Polio-myelitis	2
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1
Lobar Pneumonia	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	2
T.B. - Pulmonary	1
T.B. - Non-Pulmonary	2
	<hr/> 382 <hr/>

The two scarlet fever cases were nursed at home.



THE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF MARCH.

Sanitary Inspector's Report for the Year 1947.

1. SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA:

The following are details of visits and inspections carried out in 1947:-

Public Health Acts: Nuisances	72
Housing Acts: Disrepair	171
Housing Acts: Overcrowding	25
Cowsheds	75
Dairies and Milkshops	105
Slaughterhouses	376
Knackers Yards	27
Bakchouses	17
Fried Fish Shops	10
Food Preparing Premises	110
Other Food Shops and Stores	23
Factories and Workshops	41
Infectious Diseases	26
Scabies Order	7
Vermineous Premises (incl. Rats and Mice)	84
Piggeries	5
Refuse Accommodation	32
Moveable Dwellings	5
Sanitary Conveniences	30
Water Supplies	12
Drain Inspections	95
Miscellaneous, interviews and meetings	398
Civil Building Control	327

	2,071
	=====

The following table shows defects found and remedied during the year by action under the Public Health & Housing Acts:-

	<u>Defects found.</u>	<u>Defects remedied.</u>	<u>Outstanding at end of 1947.</u>
<u>Drainage.</u>			
Choked drains.	6	6	-
Defective drains.	2	2	-
Insufficient drainage.	6	6	-
Drainage polluting dykes.	1	1	-
Cesspools overflowing	33	33	-
Cesspools, defective construction.	1	1	-
<u>Sanitary Conveniences.</u>			
Defective closets, structure.	11	11	-
Defective sanitary pails	7	7	-
<u>Other Nuisances.</u>			
Improper disposal of waste water.	1	1	-
Accumulations of refuse.	3	3	-
<u>Vermineous Infestations.</u>			
Rats and Mice	47	47	-
Vermin	1	1	-

<u>Table of defects continued.</u>	<u>Defects found.</u>	<u>Defects remedied.</u>	<u>Outstanding at end of 1947.</u>
<u>Housing defects.</u>			
Defective roofs.	33	29	4
walls.	17	15	2
cavespouts.	6	5	1
plasterwork.	17	15	2
washing accommo-			
dation.	6	5	1
doors and frames.	7	6	1
windows and wood-			
work.	11	10	1
stoves and fire-			
places.	17	15	2
floors.	13	11	2
stairs.	2	1	1
Insufficient or defective			
refuse accommodation.	6	6	-
Dampness.	8	7	1
Paved areas.	7	3	-
	266	248	18

11. HOUSING.

Six houses were completed during the year by private enterprise. Five licences were issued during the year for the erection of private houses, three for owner-occupation and two for letting.

Two hundred and forty-six licences were issued for housing work to the value of eleven thousand, five hundred and sixty-eight pounds and one hundred and sixty-seven for non-housing work to the value of seven thousand, five hundred and twenty pounds.

111. WATER SUPPLY.

There has been no change in the circumstances of the district during the year. The following is the information requested in the Ministry of Health's Circular 49/45.

- (i) Whether the water supply of the area and of its several parts has been satisfactory in quality and quantity. - Yes.
- (ii) Where there is a piped supply, whether bacteriological examinations have been made of the water, and the results of any analysis. - No official samples have been taken on behalf of the Council; the water is known to be examined at regular intervals on behalf of the Water Company.
- (iii) The position as to contamination by lead. - The water is hard and has no plumbo-solvent action.
- (iv) Action as to contamination. - There has been no evidence of contamination during the year.
- (v) Particulars of the proportion of dwelling houses and the proportion of population supplied from public water mains.- (a) Direct to houses 90%
(b) By means of standpipes 10%

IV. MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTION.

(a) Meat. The number of animals killed during the year at the Ministry of Food Slaughterhouses in the town was as follows:- 280 Cows; 739 Other Bovines; 243 Calves; 1,527 Sheep; 306 Pigs; Total 3,095. This is a decrease on the figure for 1946 when the corresponding number was 3,822.

No improvements have been made in the arrangements for hanging beef, but this has been compensated to some extent by limiting the number of beasts slaughtered daily. The arrangements for the storage of condemned meat are still very unsatisfactory.

I wish to express my appreciation of the co-operation of the Slaughterhouse Manager and his staff whose assistance in carrying out the work is invaluable.

Condemnations during the year included the following whole carcasses:- 14 Cows; 10 Other Bovines; 7 Calves; 8 Sheep; 14 Pigs; Total 53, together with a quantity of offals and parts of carcasses bringing the total weight of meat condemned up to 14 tons, 3 cwts., 1 qr., 15½ lbs.

	Cows	Other Bovines	Calves	Sheep	Pigs	Total
No. of animals killed	280	739	243	1527	306	3095
<u>Condemnations:</u> <u>Tuberculosis</u> Whole carcasses	9	6	-	-	-	15
Part carcasses and/or organs	146	112	-	-	4	262
% of animals affected with Tuberculosis	34.28	10.28	-	-	1.3	
<u>Condemnations:</u> <u>Other Causes</u> Whole carcasses	5	9	2	8	14	38
Part carcasses and/or organs	89	310	-	59	16	484
% of animals affected with Other Diseases	33.92	33.82	.82	5.04	8.34	

(b) Other Foods. Many inspections were made during the year of stocks of other foodstuffs, and the following were condemned as unfit for human consumption:-

(i) <u>Tinned Goods.</u>	<u>No. of Tins.</u>	<u>Weight, Lbs.</u>
Meat	44	64½
Fish	36	25
Vegetables	68	37½
Milk	124	119½
Jam	4	7½
Fruit	17	37½
	<u>293</u>	<u>341½</u>

(ii) Miscellaneous.

Weight, Lbs.

Prunes	28
Bacon	71
Luncheon Sausage	24
Sausage Meat	12
Sausage Polonies	$4\frac{1}{2}$
Filletted Haddock	132
Madiera Cake	$20\frac{1}{2}$
Butter	56
Meat Pies	8
Fishcakes	$3\frac{1}{4}$
Shredded Wheat	9
Mill Bran	$10\frac{1}{2}$
Wheat Flakes	$4\frac{1}{2}$
Sugar	13
Tomatoes	55
Mars Bars (69)	$8\frac{1}{2}$
Eggs (330)	
Crabs (56)	

All the unsound food was voluntarily surrendered and in no case was seizure under the Food and Drugs Act required.

V. MILK AND DAIRIES.

At the end of the year, eighteen persons were registered as producers of milk in the district. Thirteen producers dispose of their milk mainly by wholesale and the remaining five are retail purveyors. There are in addition five other persons registered as retail purveyors who are not producers.

One licence to producer "Accredited" milk and six to produce "Tuberculin Tested" milk were in force in the district at the end of the year.

One dairyman in the town holds a licence for a pasteurising plant, and is handling a large proportion of the milk from local farms. The 'holder' method of pasteurisation is employed. This dairy has an officially approved laboratory under the National Milk Testing and Advisory Scheme, and all incoming milk is tested for keeping quality before heat treatment.

Pasteurised milk is also retailed in the district from two other sources outside the area.

Milk Samples: During the year milk samples were examined by Dr. S. Greenburgh, Public Analyst, Cambridge and the Public Health Laboratory Service, Cambridge.

(a) The following is a summary of the reports on non-designated milk samples taken during the year:-

<u>No. of samples taken</u>	<u>Satisfactory.</u>	<u>Unsatisfactory.</u>
34	22	12

Visits were paid to the premises following unsatisfactory reports and subsequent samples proved to be satisfactory.

(b) Pasteurised Milk. Samples were also taken during the year of Pasteurised milk being sold in the district, for examination in accordance with the Milk (Special Designations) Regulations, 1946. The following shows the results:-

<u>No. of samples taken.</u>	<u>Satisfied both tests.</u>	<u>Satisfied methylene blue but not phosphatase.</u>	<u>Satisfied phosphatase but not methylene blue.</u>	<u>Failed both tests.</u>
14	10	1	2	1

VI. ICE-CREAM - BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION.

Forty-five samples of ice-cream were taken during the year and examined by the methylene blue test adapted for ice-cream. The provisional grading of the samples was as follows:-

<u>Grade 1.</u>	<u>Grade 2.</u>	<u>Grade 3.</u>	<u>Grade 4.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
12	7	8	18	45

VII. RATS AND MICE.

One operator is engaged on this work on a part-time basis. Forty-six minor and one major infestations were dealt with during the year with satisfactory results.

VIII. TABLE OF NOTICES SERVED DURING 1947.

	<u>Served during 1947.</u>	<u>Complied with by 31.12.47.</u>
Public Health & Housing Acts		
Verbal	24	24
Letter	55	46
Food and Drugs Act, 1938		
Verbal	4	4
Meat Regulations 1924		
Verbal	2	2
Milk and Dairies Orders		
Verbal	12	12
Factories Act, 1937		
Verbal	3	3
Other Acts and Orders		
Verbal	2	2
Letter	1	1
	<u>103</u>	<u>94</u>

In conclusion, I should like to take the opportunity of thanking the members of the Council, and my colleagues on the staff for their helpful co-operation.

I am, Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

R.C.L. WILLIAMS,

Sanitary Inspector.

